meeting with State Governments, Central Ministries/Departments and the Investors in the mining sector are held from time to time to make the policy and procedure of grant of mineral concessions hassle-free and investor-friendly and to sensitise the various stake-holders about the reforms in the mining sector.

Army Officers accused in Tehalka episode

†1502. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several army officers accused in Tehalka tapes were found guilty in the inquiry conducted by Army Court;

(b) if so, names of these officers alongwith the charges proved against them;

(c) whether any punishment has been given to these officers by the Army Court; and

(d) if so, name of the punished officers alongwith the details of punishment given to them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Army Court of Inquiry found some of the army officers blame-worthy for their various acts of omission and commission as alleged in Tehelka tapes and recommended action against these officers.

Accordingly, disciplinary action against Major General PSK Chaudary, Brigadier Iqbal Singh and Colonel Anil Sahgal and Administrative action against Major General Manjit Singh Ahluwalia and Lt. Colonel B.B. Sharma, have been initiated. Administrative action against Major General Satnam Singh has since been finalized and he has been awarded 'Censure'.

Violation of Indian airspace by Pakistan's unmanned aircraft

1503. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 3 Pakistani unmanned aircrafts flew over Indian territory when our airspace was closed for them recently;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether there were reports of more than 3 aircrafts;

(c) whether these aircrafts are used for spying on ground army locations; and

(d) if so, how many such Pakistani aircrafts were destroyed by the Indian army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to part (a).

Jaguar crashes

†1504. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of Jaguar crashes have increased in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether Government have inquired into the reasons of these air crashes;

(c) if so, the outcomes thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by Government to modernise the Jaguar?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Necessary steps have been taken to upgrade the Jaguar aircraft.

Violation of norms in army contracts

1505. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi High Court has recently pulled up Government for violation of norms in army contract;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.